

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed July 13, 2004 in the above-identified application. The foregoing amendments are made to place the application in condition for allowance and do not raise new issues or require extensive consideration. Accordingly, entry of the amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 were previously pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 10. Claims 3, 11 and 12 are amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 2 and 10 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-9 and 11-12 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Noro (U.S. Patent No. 5,206,912). Claims 1, 7 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Pritchard (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,316). Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Noro.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 10. Claim 10 was not rejected based on Noro. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is distinguished over Noro. Furthermore, claim 2 was not rejected based on Pritchard. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is allowable over Pritchard. Amended claim 1 is distinguished over the cited references, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-9 and 11-12 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Noro and Pritchard for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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Docket No.: B0630.70020US00
Date: October 13, 2004
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